

**DIOGENES OF LONDON
AND OTHER FANTASIES
AND SKETCHES**

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Diogenes of London and Other Fantasies and Sketches by H. B. Marriott Watson

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H. B. MARRIOTT WATSON

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AND SKETCHES : BY

H. B. MARRIOTT-WATSON

AUTHOR OF

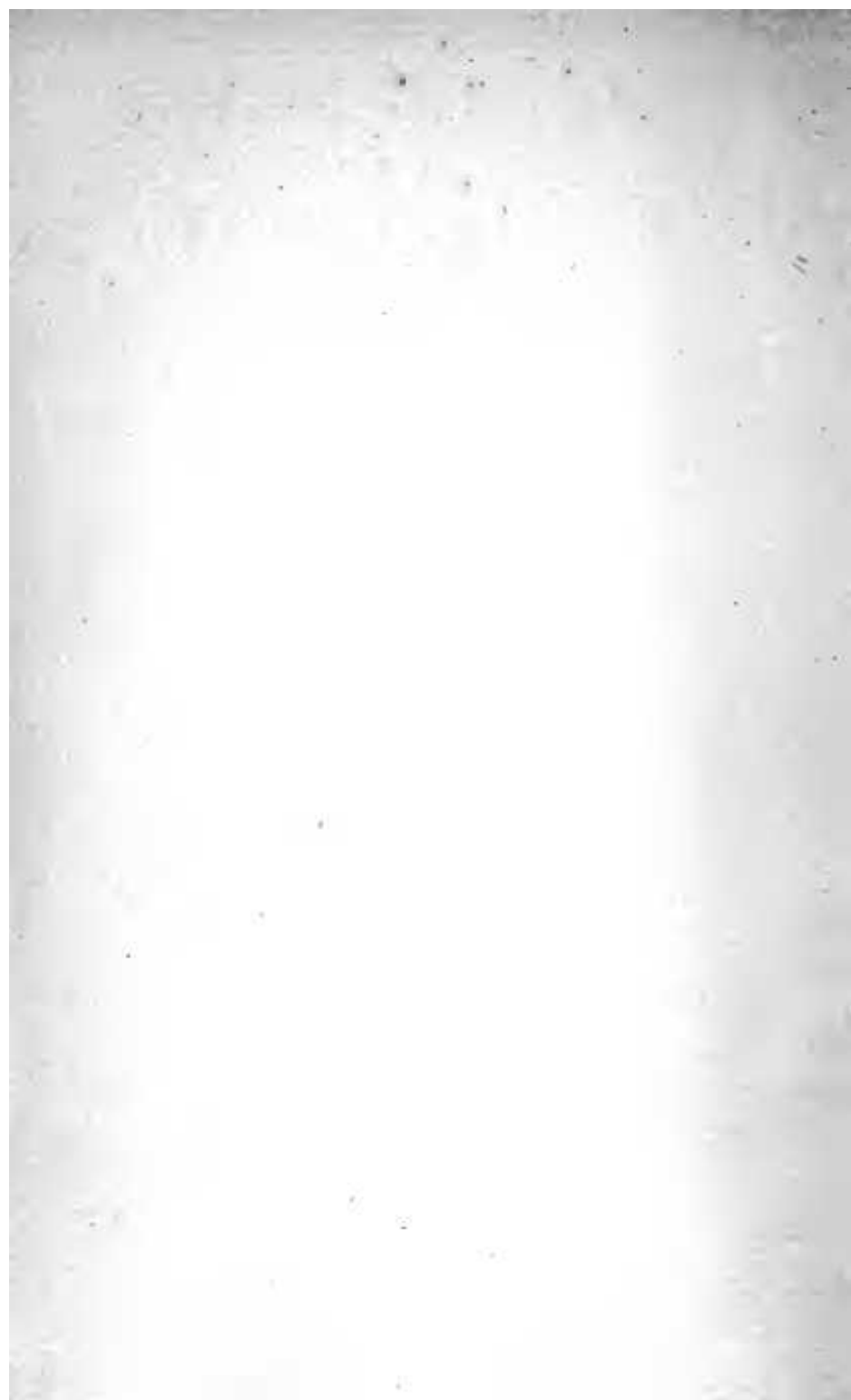
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'LADY FAINT HEART,' ETC.



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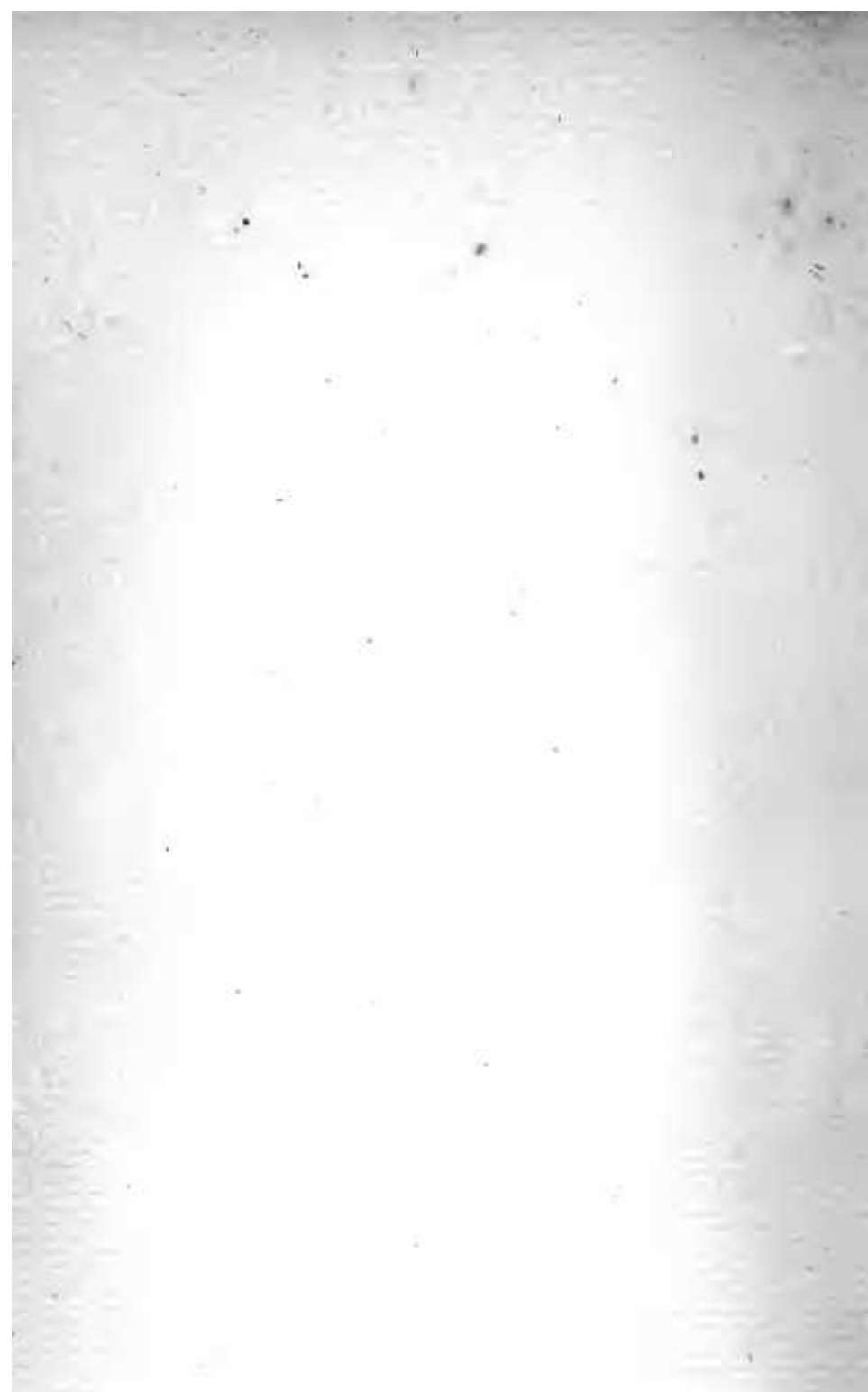


TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
DIOGENES OF LONDON,	I
THE STROKE OF ONE,	II
THE DEVIL OF THE MARSH,	22
THE MAZE,	30
THE HOUSE OF DISHONOUR,	42
THE ART OF LOVE,	51
THE THING IN THE COPSE,	59
PHYLLIS,	66
THE BRAZEN CROSS,	76
THE SWORD OF THE KADI,	86
DON QUIXOTE,	94
THE ADVICE OF ACHATES,	104
DICK A-DYING,	115
THE NAIAD,	126
MY LADY,	138
THE MERRY COMPANY,	143
OYEZ ! OYEZ !	148
THE DEAD IMMORTALS,	153

	PAGE
TO ANY GREYBEARD,	159
THE LOTOS SHORE,	164
THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE CARESS,	169
A COLLOQUY ON THE HEARTH,	174
HER PICTURE,	180
THIS BODY OF DEATH,	186
A PLEA FOR INCONSTANCY,	191
THE SHADOW ON THE YEAR,	196
NEERA'S HAIR,	201
'THE VOICE OF STRANGE COMMAND,'	206
CONCERNING A GRIMACE,	211
OVER THE FIRE,	217
'THE ROSE OF THE MORNING,'	222
THE FACILITY OF LIFE,	227

DIOGENES OF LONDON

NO,' said he, swinging his heels upon the gate and facing the distance meditatively, 'marriage matters nothing. This side of lusty youth love is an affair of arrangement—one down, t'other come on. There is no choice practicable between women. Nonage, I grant you, has delectable idols, but the currents of life sweep us clean of 'em, and when we are come to discrete and uncomplaining years we submit to the maturer laws of our destiny. Marriage,' said he sententiously, 'is of the remotest consequence.'

'I wonder,' said I, 'to find one of so nice a judgment as yourself professing this ungracious creed. You with your past of elegance——'

''Tis the past fathers the future,' he broke in: 'I am grown sensible because of this very past. Fop I have been, fop I may endure, but wisdom comes to fops no less than to country squires.'

He gave me a pretty smile as from one upon a superior pedestal; and somehow he forbade me by